

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-04

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R 061605Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2609

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, GE

SUBJECT: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS PERU

REF: USBERLIN 1966

1. GDR DEFENSE MINISTER HEINZ HOFFMANN DEPARTED PERU OCTOBER 29 AFTER EIGHT DAY VISIT. HOFFMANN'S FAREWELL ADDRESS LAUDED THE GOP FOR INITIATING A REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND FOR DEFENDING PERU'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AGAINST IMPERIALIST MACHINATIONS. QTE. THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE END QTE. DECLARED HOFFMANN, QTE. ARE TO BE ASSURED THAT THE GDR, THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY ARE FIRMLY WITH PERU, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD. WE LEAVE CONVINCED THAT THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE GDR AND REPUBLIC OF PERU, BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, AND OUR ARMED FORCES WILL WORK FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND IN THE STRUGGLE FOR WORD PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. END QTE.

2. REFTEL MENTIONED STEADY FLOW OF OFFICIAL VISITORS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IF INVITATIONS ARE PICKED UP, THE GDR CAN EXPECT MORE PERUVIAN VISITORS IN THE FUTURE. HOFFMANN SEPARATELY INVITED AIR MINISTER GILARDI, NAVY MINISTER
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ARCE AND PRIME MINISTER-MINISTER OF WAR MERCADO JARRIN

TO VISIT AND INSPECT THE GDR ARMED FORCES. HOFFMANN ASSURED THE PERUVIANS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MILITARY SECRETS WITHHELD FROM FRIENDS; THAT SECRETS ARE FOR ENEMIES.

3. COMMENT: A HOFFMANN STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT QTE. OUR GOVERNMENT (GDR) AND OUR PARTY HAVE CALLED UPON US TO WORK FOR EVERY CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES END QTE. IS INTERESTING IN LIGHT OF RUMOR CARRIED REFTEL THAT EAST GERMAN VOLKSARMEE MAY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TASK OF TRAINING CREWS AND PROVIDING MAINTENANCE FOR PERUVIAN TANKS PURCHASED FROM USSR. HOWEVER, NEITHER EMBASSY NOR MAAG HAS ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CONFIRM RUMOR. IN SPITE OF LIMA'S BEING A PRODUCTIVE RUMOR MILL, THAT PARTICULAR ONE HAS NOT YET CIRCULATED. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EAST GERMANS COULD HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ACT AS ADVISORS, IN PERUVIAN CONTEXT THERE WOULD BE NO COSMETIC COVER. INDEED, EAST GERMANS WOULD BE AT LEAST AS CONSPICUOUS AS RUSSIANS. LOGICAL RUSSIANS SURROGATES WOULD BE CUBANS WHO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, GENERALLY BLEND IN, AND HAVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH RUSSIAN TANKS. PERHAPS THE BEST EXPLANATION OF HOFFMANN'S VISIT REMAINS THAT OF EXTENDING GDR IMAGE AND PRESENCE WHEREVER IT IS WELCOMED.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIMA09351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0514
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741167/aaaacerl.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USBERLIN 1966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS PERU
TAGS: PFOR, PE, GC, (HOFFMANN, HEINZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005